

FINDON VALLEY SOCIETY

Established in 1936. Web site: FINDONVALLEY.ORG

70th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 17th May 2006

All residents of Findon Valley are invited to attend the 70th Annual General Meeting of the Findon Valley Society to be held in All Saints Church Hall on Wednesday 17th May, starting at 7.30 pm prompt.

Agenda

1. Chairman's greeting and introductions.
2. Election of Committee.
3. Motions as presented (see Notice Board).
4. Speakers and residents debate.

We will have representation from County Councillor Colin O'Neill, and Councillors Reg Green, Graham Fabes and Mark McCarthy. Unfortunately, I have apologies for non attendance from our MP Tim Loughton. I understand he is actually dining on 17th May with Lady Margaret Thatcher.

Chairman's Message

It gives pleasure in greeting all our new residents of Findon Valley over the past year and I trust you have all settled in to our very friendly village environment.

Our sincere thanks to the Road Representatives, who are doing a first class job in collecting your subscriptions. More on this later.

I am sure you will all join with me in another THANK YOU to Penny Forbes of the *FINDON VALLEY DIRECTORY*. Through Penny we have delivered news and newsletters to *every* householder in the Valley.

The Society Committee has had its ups and downs this year, beginning with the most untimely death of our most valued Treasurer, Robert Walker.

In October, we received the unfortunate resignation of our Secretary, Angela Giles – our very sincere thanks to Angela, who has done a tremendous amount of work for our Society over the many years. Our thanks also to our Vice Chairman, Rebecca Bailey, who, due to business commitments, could not take up the office.

The good news is that we now have a new Secretary in Pam Pilbury, and a new Treasurer in Donna Denham. We also have Doreen Tickner taking on the challenge of Membership Secretary, along with Betty Quinnell as assistant. Our thanks and best wishes to them.

You will find all the names and positions of your committee on the Notice Board outside the Library. Keep an eye on the Board for up to date information.

We will consider requesting that Findon Valley becomes a Conservation area to stop the "spoiling" of small bungalows into houses (History of the Valley in retirement).

I must admit to being personally disgusted when I heard of the deliberate vandalism in Durrington Cemetery. We will be calling for a public meeting shortly!

As you will read in the following reports, we have had an exceptional year of achievements from a team who dedicate a great deal of their time to looking after the interests of all who live in the Valley. *Please give them your full support.*

I have had an appeal for volunteers to assist with the maintenance and running of the HIGH SALVINGTON WINDMILL. If you can assist, please contact John Simmonds, 62 Offington Avenue, BN14 9PJ.

Leroy W Bryan, Chairman

As mentioned above, I have recently taken on the role of Secretary to the Findon Valley Society, but I have already become aware of the issues that the committee has taken up on your behalf. Please support us, and do not hesitate to contact me with anything that you would like raised at the AGM.

The Society is organising an outing to Amberley Chalk Pit on Sunday 25th June. We would be delighted if you could join us – please bring a picnic lunch. Hopefully the weather will treat us well, and it will be an enjoyable day.

Pam Pilbury, Secretary

There is a problem with parking at the shop area, exacerbated by cars, vans and lorries parking on pavement outside Mitsubishi, so that residents are unable, at times, to get past. FVS is intervening to try to solve the difficulties.

FVS have also intervened with WBC in order to sort out some of the problems at Durrington Cemetery after the vandals' attack.

FVS have taken on board the problem of stopping the WSCC wanting to allow anyone or everyone to use 4X4s, quad bikes, and motor bikes on all bridleways on the South Downs. We are busy collecting signatures to send to WSCC regarding this appalling state of affairs, in an effort to stop this happening. You can add your signature to either of the clip boards - one is at the P.O. and the other is at Geoff Dean Saddlery.

Susan Smith, Publicity

This pleasant valley that we all live in, desperately needs the continued support of its 'Guardian Angels' (the FVS) to ensure that it remains just that. Being very much a 'new girl' on the committee, I am constantly surprised at the many and varied issues that are taken up on your behalf.

In order that this work can continue, and indeed grow, we need all of the Findon Valley residents to join us and have their say in the issues that affect our daily lives.

Betty Quinnell and I have taken on the task of co-ordinating our existing Road Representatives and if possible recruiting new Road Representatives for the many roads that are not covered. This, I can assure you, is not an onerous task and can be easily incorporated with a pleasant walk on a nice summer evening. If you feel able to spare a couple of hours (once a year), please, please contact us.

Should your road not have a representative, then please do drop your £2 subscription (per household) into the Post Office, along with your name and address. Our thanks to Clare and Amy for this facility.

Doreen Tickner, Membership Secretary

KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS have recently appeared on the roundabout at Offington Corner, you may have noticed. The intention is to relieve congestion on the Findon Road by allowing south and west bound traffic to escape more easily. If it works, it will be due solely to a sustained effort by your Society over several years. (County Highways, you may be interested to learn, has never done anything to address southbound congestion through the Valley.)

OFFINGTON'S "ONE-WAY PLUG" appears to have been abandoned by County Highways. Again, solely due to input from your Society.

And the requested second **PROTECTED CROSSING** at the Surgery has moved up to 6th on County Highways priorities' list.

David Morgan, A24/A27

HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY

We came to the Findon Valley in September 1946, my mother having previously owned and named "The Smugglers", Sompting. The war was over, but still sniffing at our heels, with rationing of everything from food and clothing to petrol, coal and wood for building. My father had been with the War Agricultural Committee for East and West Sussex based in Lewes, as he was a lecturer at Plumpton College.

Findon Valley was very important in growing food crops at that time. My family bought Laureldene Nurseries – seven glasshouses and a packing shed – crops mainly tomatoes and lettuce. My mother ran the Nursery with the manager and two part-time staff. The first winter was the great snow of 1946/47; only my mother and I were living in the house at the top of the Nursery. There were bungalows over the Findon Road, but nothing nearby. I don't know what happened to the staff, but the boiler went out in the only heated greenhouse and my mother was down in the boilerhouse trying to re-light it. Three months under a blanket of snow and ice! I caught rheumatic fever trying to pack chrysanthemum stalls in a cold and draughty packing shed. The seagulls were pecking the linseed oil based putty out of the glasshouses, and the herons that flew along the Valley found all the ponds thick with ice, and died. Everything was frozen until the end of March. After that, the country had a heatwave in the summer of 1947, and the glasshouses had to be top ventilated every day by me before I cycled to Worthing High School. The Nursery and Portersham Nursery next door behind the Q8 garage are now in the area surrounding Hurston Close.

More memories next month.

Rosemary Hook, South Downs